Creedon, Paul

From: Lopez, Donna
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2014 9:58 AM
To: Creedon, Paul
Subject: FW:

From: Victoria Schechinger [mailto:tori.schechinger@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2014 7:39 PM
To: City Council; Lopez, Donna
Subject:

To the Cambridge City Council,

As a supporter of the Surfrider Foundation Massachusetts Chapter, I applaud your efforts to mitigate instances of plastic debris in the environment through your work on the proposed plastic bag ban ordinances.

I join Surfrider in urging you to vote to pass the Decker ordinance tonight without delay, and to add an amendment that adds a fee on all paper bags.

Adding a fee on paper bags is essential to any plastic bag mitigation ordinance, as it levels the playing field for small business owners by requiring all stores to charge the same fee for paper bags and requires that all fees pass thru from the consumer to the store. This provides an incentive for store owners to comply with the ordinance, as they would no longer be paying for the cost of bags and would not have the burden of higher costs for paper over plastic.

Adding fees on paper bags is also essential to plastic bag ban ordinances as it serves to disincentivize the use of single-use bags and instead serves to encourage the use of reusable bags. Changing consumer behavior is a core tenet of good environmental stewardship.

As such, I urge you to adopt Surfrider's proposed amendment & vote to pass the Decker Ordinance tonight.

Proposed amendment:

Section 8.67.040 Requirements, amended to add subsection D as follows:

D. Charges.

1. Retail Establishments that provide Recyclable Paper Bags to customers shall charge for each such bag provided a fee of $0.25 per bag, which shall be retained by the Retail Establishment.
2. Any Charge for a Checkout Bag shall be separately stated on a receipt of sale provided to the customer at the time of sale and shall be identified as the “Checkout Bag Charge” thereon.

Tonight, you have the opportunity to champion a strong ordinance that will truly benefit the environment by getting single-use plastic bags out of circulation, reducing the use of single-use paper bags, encouraging a paradigm shift in consumer behavior, and supporting small business owners. I urge you to pass the Decker ordinance with Surfrider's proposed amendment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victoria Schechinger
Surfrider Foundation Massachusetts Chapter Supporter

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Victoria

VICTORIA SCHECHINGER

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